

which consisted of more than 900 personnel assigned to four ground and three air troops. He ensured the overall readiness of more than 400 vehicles, helicopters, and equipment. While deployed, CSM Berhane led a task force of 1,241 personnel during Operation Iraqi Freedom without losing a single soldier. CSM Berhane was commended for establishing and enforcing standards of combat readiness, training, morale, and discipline for the unit during eight months of intense combat operations.

From March 2004 to January 2009, CSM Berhane served as Brigade Command Sergeant Major of the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division. He oversaw command and control, planning, training, maintenance, deployment and combat readiness of the Brigade, ensuring the overall readiness of more than 1,230 vehicles and managing the deployment of more than 3,800 personnel to Iraq as part of the surge initiative. While deployed during this time, CSM Berhane personally led more than 300 combat patrols and increased retention standards by 40%, earning the Commanding General's Top Brigade Retention Award for the Division.

Most recently, in 2009, CSM Berhane was assigned to USAG Fort Belvoir as the Garrison Command Sergeant Major, and he has skillfully assisted in the execution of one of the largest BRAC missions within the Department of Defense. He has provided direct leadership and management to a staff of 120 soldiers and 558 civilians to ensure the effective operations, installation management and base programs and services that provide support to 9,500 soldiers, 27,000 family members, 100,000 military retirees, and 50,000 DoD employees of 145 partner agencies. CSM Berhane has worked closely with Garrison Commanders to maintain and enhance the excellent relationships that exist between Fort Belvoir and local communities and governments that have been impacted by BRAC.

CSM Berhane is a highly decorated officer; his awards and decorations include: Legion of Merit; Bronze Star Medal (w/"V" Device); Bronze Star Medal (w/1 Oak Leaf Cluster); Meritorious Service Medal; Army Commendation Medal (w/6 Oak Leaf Clusters); Army Achievement Medal (w/6 Oak Leaf Clusters); Good Conduct Medal (8th Award); National Defense Medal (w/Bronze Star); Iraqi Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Armed Forces Services Medal; NCO Professional Development Ribbon (w/Numeral Four); Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Ribbon (w/Numeral Five); United Nations Medal; Presidential Unit Citation Medal; Joint Meritorious Unit Medal; Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal; Parachutist Badge; Drill Sergeant Badge and Combat Action Badge. CSM Berhane is a member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and also a recipient of the Order of Saint George.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in commending Command Sergeant Major Gabriel Berhane for his unwavering dedication to duty in peacetime and in combat. CSM Berhane's accomplishments and expertise have contributed immeasurably to our national defense and security, and he has earned the admiration, respect, and gratitude of all Americans. We also thank CSM Berhane's wife, Connie, and their children, Jasmin, Michael and Rashawn, for their support and sacrifices

over the years. We wish them a happy and healthy retirement filled with continued success.

ON THE BIRTH OF TALLON WILLIAM LENIHAN

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my Legislative Director, Brian Lenihan and his wife Keagan, on the birth of their son, Tallon William Lenihan. Tallon William was born at 3:15 p.m. on Monday, April 2, 2012, in Washington, DC.

Tallon William Lenihan is nine pounds and one ounce of pride and joy to his loving grandparents, Michael and Marilyn Lenihan of Seminole, Florida, and Barclay and Lorita Resler of McLean, Virginia.

I am so excited for this new blessing to the Lenihan family and wish them all the best on their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE LITERARY COUNCIL OF NORTHERN VIR- GINIA'S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Literary Council of Northern Virginia.

Founded in 1962, the LCNV is the oldest literacy program in the state and one of the largest literacy councils in the nation. Throughout its 50 years of service, the LCNV has adapted to the growing needs of the Northern Virginia community to serve adult learners at the lowest literacy level. By empowering approximately 1,600 adult learners to better participate in their communities, the LCNV is ensuring the economic success of hundreds of local families for a lifetime.

With the help of more than 1,000 volunteers, the LCNV has become one of the more efficient and effective community-based literacy organizations in the country. In FY2011, these trained volunteers provided more than 31,000 hours of service, which amounts to an average of 84 hours of volunteer service per day. Their longstanding partnerships with community organizations such as Crestwood Elementary School, Woodlawn Elementary School, and the Lorton Senior Center, ensure neighborhood ties that foster educational growth for the whole family.

Following an economic downturn, adult education becomes a low priority for many low-level literacy adults. Even in the face of this, the LCNV's programs saw improved retention and attendance rates. This last year, it also added a credentialed Special Education teacher to its staff to ensure a learner-focused education for any adult with learning differences.

Recognized for the second time as "One of the Best Small Charities in the Washington, D.C. Region" by the Catalogue for Philanthropy, the LCNV is continually lauded as a successful and valued partner in the commu-

nity. It has been acknowledged for its leadership in human rights and cultural diversity through numerous awards, including the Virginia State Reading Association's Annual Literacy Award, the Virginia Foundation's Award for Volunteering Excellence, and the Arlington Human Rights Commission's James B. Hunter Human Rights Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia. Its values of Integrity, Innovation, Respect, Collaboration, and Excellence have propelled it to success for the past 50 years and will continue to carry the Council through the next 50 years. I also want to express my gratitude to the LCNV staff, Board of Directors, and countless volunteers who dedicate their time and resources to empower neighbors of our community to develop basic skills of reading, writing, and speaking English.

HONORING GUARIONE DIAZ ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CUBAN AMERICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great south Floridian and a dear friend, Guarione Diaz, who after 34 years as President and CEO of the Cuban American National Council is retiring. He leaves behind an immense legacy of service. Fleeing Castro's tyrannical regime in 1961, Guarione left his native Cuba and immigrated to the United States. While working odd jobs, he graduated with a degree in sociology and philosophy from St. Francis College in New York. He later received his masters in social work from Columbia University. Guarione first worked for New York City's Department of Employment and the Community Development Agency, where he held numerous management positions. In 1972, Guarione was invited by Father Mario Vizcaino to join CNC. Initially named the Cuban National Planning Council, the Council was the first non-profit organization conducting research on the socio-economic needs of Cuban Americans in the United States. In less than a decade, the Council transformed itself to address the educational, housing, employment needs of all Hispanics.

I have had the privilege to have worked with CNC on numerous occasions. From pre-school programs to internships to employment services and low-income housing, CNC has helped prevent so many in our community from slipping through the cracks. It has been a tremendous asset and support system for so many in our south Florida community. Not only has CNC assisted those who have fallen on hard times, they have also nurtured the next generation of Hispanic leaders.

Even though his public persona has been as head of the Cuban American National Council, I consider Guarione a part of my extended family. Given that he has been friends with my dad for nearly 50 years, he has been a dear part of my life for as long as I can remember. His life has always been marked by a sense of responsibility towards those most vulnerable in our society. Guarione's entire professional career has been centered on this mission.